THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of recent scientific investigations indicating possible link between the low-dose exposure and radiation-induced cancer. However, some of these findings have also been questioned on scientific grounds. The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) is examining these reports and we are awaiting the recommendation of ICRP.

(b) No, Sir. The Government has not so far studied the full report of Dr. John W. Gofman. However, Government is aware of the summarised contents of the report as published in the news media. Basically, the report questions the vali dity of the revised cancer risk estimates from the atomic bomb survivor data in Japan. The revised estimates were based on the facts that the predictions of Dr. J. W. Gofman in 1974 did not match with, the cancer deaths actually observed in this population since 1974.

(c) and (d) Based on the above mention ed reports the Government does not see any compelling reason at this stage to look into the question of the use of nu clear energy in our country. The Depart ment of Atomic ' ' Energy continuously examines and reviews through Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and other com mittees and task forces the health and safety aspects of nuclear energy at all stages Of nuclear fuel cycle. It may be pointed out that non-DAE exports are always associated with all committees Task Forces. From the health and safety point of view there is no new development at this stage nor any new data which calls for a denovo examination of the uti lization of nuclear energy.

JJevelopmenf of New Catalyst for-Converting Gas into Kerosene

1408. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appeared in Times of India dated the 29th November, 1990 wherein it has been started that a new Catalyst to turn gas into Kerosene has now developed by National Chemical Laboratory, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this has been put to pilof -plant and field trials; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA). (a) Yes, Sir. As reported in the New Delhi edition of Times of India dated 29. 10. 1990, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) has developed catalysts involved in conversion of methanol to middle distillates *viz* kerosene and diesel,

(b) Based on the NCL developments the Centre for High Technology, Govern— ment of India has approved to support a project to set up a one tonne per day pilot plant at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Bombay to ascertain the commercial viability. The design of the pilot plant has been completed paving the way for setting up of the pilot plant.

Eugagement of Contract Workers at Paradeep Pont

1409. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aboujt 816 contract workers are allowed to be engaged for 16. hours daily by clearing and forwarding agents at Paradeep Port for loading/unloading of coal wagons inviola-tion of labour laws when some workers of the Paradeep Port are without work for many years; and

(b) if so, what are the remedial steps proposed to be taken for adherence of labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): - (a) and (b) The information is being collected.